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MINNESOTA LIBRARIES



COUNTY LIBRARIES, 1944-1949

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STATE OF MINNESOTA

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Code XIII—A-1.

Aspects of Mobile Library Service

MARTHA GREY, *Librarian, and*
GERTRUDE LAIRD, *Bookmobile Librarian*
Troy (Ohio) Public Library

The conclusions on bookmobile service stated in this article are based on the ten years of experience in Miami County, Ohio. The bookmobile operates from the Troy Public Library, located in an industrial city of 10,000. The area served by the bookmobile covers nine townships. The great majority of the residents of this area live and earn their living on farms. There are no residential centers larger than 800. There is an elementary school in each township and high school in six of them.

The object of any extension service is to bring together at one time and place three elements: the person who actually reads the book, a collection of books adequate for his ordinary needs with provision for supplementing it to meet special demands, a librarian qualified to ascertain the reader's needs and to find the material to fill them. The oftener such a conjunction takes place the better but, since no two of these elements can produce very satisfactory service alone, frequency of contact sometimes has to be sacrificed for the quality of occasional service.

For the amount of money expended the bookmobile offers enormous advantages. The book collection is variable. Books in use on one side of the county the first half of the month may be loaned on the other side the last half. The professional librarian who accompanies the books has direct and personal contact with the reader and can obtain for him promptly material from the parent library or from some other through inter-library loan if she does not have it in her collection. She can also stimulate demands which would not otherwise be made because the reader does not know such material exists. A second-hand request is seldom as good as a direct one and often loses its entire significance in transmission.

Adult bookmobile service requires endless and varied promotion and considerable agility both mental and physical. Route planning is a continual process. A good adult bookmobile stop provides:

(1) At least six or seven houses within easy walking distance. (This number is

dependent on population distribution.)

(2) A wide roadside or a farmyard in which the truck can be safely parked. (Don't forget hot or cold drinks and plumbing for the staff.)

(3) A reasonable geographical relationship to other stops. (Let the staff argue whether it is worth driving 45 minutes there and 45 minutes back to lend six books: it's never settled.)

(4) People who are or can become interested in reading.

After all the news stories, feature articles and schedules have been published in the county papers, the posters distributed, the P.T.A.'s, the Grange and Farm Bureau groups "spoken at," there is nothing more effective than a pleasant librarian on the doorstep and a big beautiful bookmobile out by the mailbox. Take a tip from the Fuller Brush Company, cultivate an off-hand manner with dogs and ring doorbells. Who knows? You may get a piece of hot gingerbread! And in answer to that first question don't say "It's free." Say "It's already paid for. The library feels that you taxpayers out here on Route 67 are entitled to just as good library service as the people who live in town only a few blocks from the library." This gets the gingerbread.

The adult book collection must be up-to-date, widely varied and arranged on the bookmobile so that the adult section can be segregated from children's and high school reading. The bookmobile librarian can be and is asked for anything, and of course she can't carry everything. The patron may not see what he wants on the shelf, but if he sees a lot of other things he is encouraged to think his choice might be there too if the librarian only knew about it.

If it is at all possible adult stops should be visited at least every two weeks. Evening hours are much better than daylight ones for farmers. Scheduling is affected by so many elements no specific rules can apply to all situations. There are, however, some major principles to be remembered:

First, make the most of your librarian. She is one of your greatest assets. Don't

crowd the schedule so that the bookmobile is packed with people to whom she never gets a chance to speak. Don't smother her with clerical duties that prevent her from getting out and around. Don't expect her to be a licensed chauffeur and auto-mechanic. Let her keep her eye on the book collection and the request list and get somebody else to watch the gasoline gauge and the air pressure in the tires.

Streamline clerical routines but don't neglect them. Our experience shows that lending 70,000 books a year to 3,000 different people from thirty-odd points over 200 square miles requires SYSTEM. Plan carefully and hire somebody to carry out the routine. But it doesn't take a library school graduate.

Give both the librarian and the clerical assistant at least one day a week at headquarters.

Finally — have fun! Bookmobiling is one of the most surprising, most delightful jobs in the world. The bookmobile librarian who comes in at the end of the day without at least one good story is missing things.

Put it on the basis of "the mail must go through," "the show must go on," or what you will. Build up a morale that breeds enthusiasm, and watch the bookmobile service garner a personal loyalty and affectionate appreciation from its patrons that a library stuck monotonously in one place can never enjoy.

County Library Laws

AN ACT Relating to Tax Levies for County Library Purposes and Amending Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 375.33, Subdivision 1.

375.33 Free county libraries. Subdivision 1. Authorization, establishment, financing. The county board of any county in this state is hereby authorized to establish and maintain, at the county seat or any other city to be determined by the board, a public library for the free use of all residents of the county, and may levy a tax in a sum which will be produced by not to exceed two mills on the dollar of all the taxable property outside of any city or village wherein a free public library is located, or which is already taxed for the support of any such library, the proceeds of which tax shall be known as the county library fund provided that when the taxable valuation subject to such tax exceeds 20 million dollars, the tax levy shall not exceed one mill.

Approved March 10, 1947.

An amendment to Mason's Minnesota Statutes of 1927, Section 673, Subdivision 3. (Minnesota Statutes 1945, Section 375.33, Subdivision 3.)

The first sentence has been amended to read:

375.33 Free county libraries. Subdivision 3. If there is a free public library in the county, the board of county commissioners may contract with the board of directors of such library, upon such terms as may be agreed upon between such boards, . . . Approved March 2, 1943.

Recent Rural Trends and the Implications For Librarians

DOUGLAS G. MARSHALL

Associate Professor of Sociology, University of Minnesota

Our human resources are too often taken for granted as expendable and inexhaustible. The fact of the matter is that they are just as capable of being destroyed as are our physical resources. Both must be conserved. What are some specific aspects of human resources?

We have approximately one million people on farms in Minnesota; close to one-half million classified as rural non-farm, the majority living in small towns; and around one and one-half million living in our cities.

Our total population approximates three million. We have increased our total population by about 5% since 1940. Our rate of increase has shown a decline almost consistently since 1860. This can be explained largely by three factors: declining birth rates, the almost complete closing of the door to immigrants, and an increasing rate of migration away from Minnesota.

An important phenomenon today is the disequilibrium in the ratio of males to females in our population. In the age group 20 to 24 years for 1940 we had 147 males to every 100 females in the farm population. In some areas of the state the ratio is nearly 2:1, males over females. This should be an important consideration in predicting reader response, especially in the age group 20 to 30 years of age.

As to reproduction we find that the families in our good agricultural areas have declined in size considerably in the past few decades; in fact, in some of the best agricultural areas the families are just about reproducing themselves. However, in the poorer land areas we still find that the size of the family has consistently been larger than in the good agricultural areas.

We have done an excellent job of cutting down the death rate in Minnesota. In fact, we are one of the best states to live in, at least in terms of length of life. This does not mean, however, that we don't have work to do to improve the health conditions of our rural people. In fact, sickness rates are higher in the rural areas than they are

in the city. This is one of the problems that confront us at the present time, and librarians could do a real service by seeing that literature on health and health problems is made available, particularly to our farm people.

Another important aspect of rural population is the migration of farm youth to our large towns and cities. This means a real problem in terms of education, because in most cases it implies that our educational system must serve a dual purpose in rural areas. It must educate those who intend to stay in agriculture, and it must educate those who intend to move into a non-agricultural occupation. The implication for librarians should be obvious. They must recognize this duality of purpose and foster adequate guidance.

In most rural areas we have about reached the plateau in terms of actual population growth. In fact, in many areas there has already been a decline in the rural population. There is no reason why this trend will not continue. This means that fewer people will be expected to support even more services than they have in the past. To librarians, this means that the job of selling a library service will not be made any easier, since competition with health services, education, transportation, communication, will be even more pronounced.

Another changing aspect of rural life which is not necessarily demographic in viewpoint is the growing cooperation between the agricultural population and the village and hamlet. Town-country relationships have improved considerably during the last decade. However, much remains to be done. The librarians can help accelerate this process by bringing town and country people closer together. Whether we recognize it or not, we are all much more interdependent in all segments of society than we were just a few years ago. This presents a real challenge to librarians who should be leaders in the movement to teach cooperation and good social relations.

A Missouri Regional Library

MARY ELLEN STOCKARD

Librarian, Current River Regional Library

In 1945, the Missouri state legislature authorized counties in Missouri to vote an additional assessment for the maintenance of county libraries.

The Current River Regional Library, covering two counties, Carter and Ripley, was voted for by the people of each county in April, 1947.

Missouri statutes provide that regional libraries stem from county units. In other words, our regional libraries are multi-county units. When the State Extension Librarian worked to establish libraries in the counties which now compose Current River Regional Library, the matter of finances was discussed frankly, and it was urged that each county consider cooperation with nearby areas having the same economic and social backgrounds. After the people of the two counties voted to establish the libraries and to authorize the assessment, a library board was established in each county in accordance with the law.

The library boards of Carter and Ripley counties worked out an arrangement for a regional library under the supervision of a single librarian. In the area of the Current River Regional Library there is a branch maintained at each county seat. The Regional Library owns and operates a bookmobile which gives service to all other localities.

Books bought for the regional Library and its branches are marked *Current River Regional Library, County, Missouri*, in the event that one of the counties may wish to withdraw. However, the books are used in any county in the region without regard to ownership. In this way the books in the libraries are freely exchanged in the counties and the total operating expense is substantially reduced.

All expenditures for the Regional Library, including salaries, books, and operation, are divided proportionately on a population basis. The only exception to this is that branch maintenance and salaries of clerks at the branches are paid for by the individual counties.

It is hoped that the state library law may be revised so that money for the budget for

a given period can be taken from the separate county treasuries and deposited to the account of the Regional Library in an insured bank. This would eliminate the writing of multiple warrants for each debt incurred by the library.

The bookmobile schedule ignores county lines, and service is extended in spokes from the separate centers. The service is on a regular schedule so that adults and schools know when the bookmobile will be in their communities.

Each county has a branch library which is open a certain number of hours a week according to the need, and anybody in the region may use any of these branches and the bookmobile. Arrangements have been completed for Reynolds County to join the Current River Regional Library, making a total of three counties at present. It is possible that the region will finally consist of seven counties, which will be served by three bookmobiles, a jeep, stations, branches, and book deposits. It seems likely that two more counties will soon be added to the present three counties.

The Librarian of the Regional Library selects and purchases books for the Regional Library. Each county pays its proportional part from funds made available through taxation and state aid. In addition to the purchases, many books are received as gifts. Also, free government publications are obtained whenever possible.

It is very important to acquaint the public with the services of the Library. Local newspapers have been extremely cooperative in publishing the bookmobile schedule and calling attention to other items of interest. The Librarian works in close cooperation with the schools and civic organizations in order to encourage full use of the Library. Many purchases for the Library are determined by the demand.

When choosing books for the bookmobile, it is impossible to anticipate all that patrons may request. Therefore a request form has been developed. The Librarian then decides between the alternatives of purchasing the requested book or borrowing it from the

state library service for delivery on a future trip.

The Current River Regional Library has been functioning for approximately one year. In the early months it was necessary to limit the number of books borrowed by the schools to ten for each classroom. It has been possible to increase the number of books to one book for each pupil, with ten additional books for each teacher. The demand for books is still greater than the supply. When the library was started last year we had no books. Now we own approximately seven thousand volumes. One of the most pressing problems is to acquire enough additional books so that the supply will equal the demand.

This is a very challenging job for the Librarian. There is an opportunity to get books to many people who have not had previous use of public library service. In this section of the state there are many isolated communities that have been limited in their use of books because of distance and bad roads. A multi-county or regional library is the best means of taking books to the people in these places. One adult reader recently said: "This is just like the city. We can get books." It is a thrill to the librarian to see the children, happy with their selection of bright new books, and the adults eagerly waiting to choose their volumes.

American Library Association List

This list includes county and regional libraries with a minimum annual income of \$5,000 or 10 cents per capita, whichever is larger. . . . The libraries listed also serve all or the major portion of a county and/or region . . . and give direct book service to rural people through branches, stations, bookmobiles, etc.

Name and Location of Library	Population Served 1940 Census	Income for Co. Service 1947-48	Per Capita Income
MINNESOTA — 11 out of 87 counties			
Blue Earth Co. L., Mankato.....	20,549	\$ 13,246	\$.64
Hennepin Co. L., Minneapolis.....	72,429	34,509	.48
Kandiyohi Co. L., Willmar.....	18,901	10,125	.54
Marshall-Lyon Co. L., Marshall.....	17,419	7,388	.43
Martin Co. L., Fairmont.....	17,688	14,264	.81
Nobles Co. L., Worthington.....	14,637	13,030	.89
Ramsey Co. L., St. Paul.....	16,206	11,065	.68
St. Louis Co. Service from the P.L.s of Duluth, Ely, Virginia and Hibbing, be- tween them serving all of the county.....	46,411	16,000	.34
Stearns Co. L., St. Cloud.....	43,633	14,257	.33
Waseca Co. L., Waseca.....	15,186	6,857	.45
Watsonwan Co. L., St. James.....	10,502	7,108	.68

Editor's Note: Since the above report was made, August, 1949, two more county libraries have reported budgets qualifying them for inclusion under the A.L.A. rule. They are listed below.

Clay Co. L., Moorhead.....	15,346	\$ 10,000	\$.65
Itasca Co. L., Grand Rapids.....	18,144	8,735	.48

The Clay County Library

MYRTLE T. RUNDQUIST and MARY CARY

Moorhead Public Library

When the people of Clay County voted at the general election in November, 1948, to levy a tax for library purposes, Clay County became the first county in north-western Minnesota to establish county library service. For several years the rural schools had been receiving library service through the Moorhead Public Library, and some early attempts were made to provide books for adults who asked for them by including a few adult books from the Public Library in the rural school collections. But it was not until about 1943 when Mr. Lee F. Zimmerman, Director of the Library Division of the Department of Education at that time, discussed with the members of the Moorhead Public Library Board the work of county libraries in other parts of the state, that the idea of a county library was implanted in the minds of the members of the Public Library Board. Miss Katherine Leonard, Chairman of the Public Library Board, was vitally interested in library extension and discussed the possibility of a county library whenever she contacted individuals who were interested in books and reading.

When Miss Myrtle Rundquist, City Librarian, was appointed in the fall of 1945, the Public Library Board assigned to her the responsibility for promoting interest among the people of the county in organizing a county library. In October of 1946 she outlined the possibility of a county library with the township chairmen of the County Home Makers organization. Many of the members were interested, but only a few at this time assumed any responsibility for bringing the idea home to the people of local communities. Later, a committee selected from a list of names submitted by the Home Demonstration Agent, the County Agent, and the County Superintendent of Schools, met at the Public Library with the Librarian to review the library situation in Clay County. The city of Moorhead, with a population of 9,491, had the only Public Library in the county. Two-thirds of the residents of the county were living outside of the city of Moorhead

and had no library service. The need for and value of county library service, the existing library laws in Minnesota, and possible methods of launching a publicity campaign were also discussed.

On February 22, 1947, a group of some thirty citizens met at the Moorhead City Hall to hear Mr. Zimmerman present a very concrete picture of library conditions in Minnesota and explain how library service could be obtained in Clay County. The entire idea seemed rather vague to many, who felt that they were not ready to organize for any action at that time. One month later an organization meeting was called when an earnest effort was made to reach individuals who were keenly interested in securing a county library. A Clay County Citizens Library Association was formed. The following officers were elected: Mrs. George Klokseth, Glyndon, chairman; Mrs. B. Wyatt, Sabin, treasurer; and Mrs. Obert Fassay, Kragnes, secretary. These officers proceeded to appoint a publicity chairman. Since the work of the chairman was most important in a publicity campaign, the officers spent a great deal of effort trying to enlist the services of a competent person. One after another resigned for legitimate reasons, and all work seemed to be at a standstill.

On June 17, 1947, Miss Emily Mayne, Martin County Librarian at that time, addressed a group of leaders at Hawley, Minnesota, in an attempt to create greater interest in the project and to answer questions that had come up.

Repeated attempts to find a publicity chairman failed, but in the spring of 1948 a committee of three women took over the responsibility, and promotion work actually got under way. Leaders were appointed, one from each township and village, and they were responsible for bringing information concerning the library project to every organization in their local communities. Mrs. J. L. Rendahl, Moorhead, spoke at several meetings, and Mrs. J. W. Broberg of Dilworth arranged for several radio interviews over two of the local stations. Mrs.

Charles Bouton of Glyndon assisted by planning a film schedule using **LIBRARY ON WHEELS**, a 16 mm film borrowed from the State Library Division. P.T.A. and Farm Bureau groups as well as others were addressed whenever possible.

On March 19, 1948, all of the leaders throughout the county met at Moorhead with Mrs. Agatha Klein, then Supervisor of Extension Library at the State Library Division, and many questions that had come up were answered. At this time petitions requesting the commissioners to levy a 1½ mill tax for library purposes were distributed to leaders who circulated them in local communities. At the July annual meeting of the County Board a small group of leaders presented the petitions to the County Board with a goodly number of signatures; but since this was a new venture, the commissioners preferred to get the reaction of the citizens at the annual election before levying a tax. A sufficient number of freeholders had signed petitions to make it imperative to place the question on the ballot at the annual election in November.

Our best publicity came at this time. The Moorhead Daily News published several articles by county leaders, as well as editorials, and headlined all activities. The other county newspapers reported progress of the campaign also. The publicity committee continued to inform everyone concerning the facts of a future county library. Letters were sent to the leaders to inspire them to keep talking about the library. The elementary schools in the county participated in a poster contest to publicize the library project before election. Personal contacts by the publicity committee with individuals out in the county seemed to be the most satisfactory method of arousing interest. Many of the rural people knew the value of libraries from college days and were anxious that their children should have the same advantages as city children.

At the general election on November 2, 1948, the resulting vote of three to one in favor of establishing a library left no doubt in the minds of the County Board of Commissioners as to the wishes of the majority of the people in Clay County.

In December, Miss Emily Mayne, newly appointed Supervisor of Extension Library

in the Library Division, was invited to come to Moorhead. She outlined plans for organizing a county library with members of the Public Library board, the county auditor and chairman of the County Board of Commissioners. These two county representatives invited Miss Mayne and the Public Librarian to accompany the county leaders the following day when they appeared before the County Board to request that the tax levy become effective in January, 1949. Their approval of a 1.7 mill tax at this time instead of at the annual meeting meant that work on the library project could begin in 1949 rather than 1950.

The County Board had already agreed that the most efficient organization would be a contract with the Public Library of Moorhead. Since the Public Library board had been active in promoting the organization of a county library, they were anxious to cooperate. At a "coffee and doughnut" session at the Public Library, members of the County Board and Library Board discussed possible terms to be included in a contract. The city charter of Moorhead does not permit a subsidiary department to draw up a contract, so further meetings had to be scheduled with the city clerk, mayor, city attorney and board members. On April 6 the final terms of the contract were agreed upon. It provides that the County Board would pay \$10,000 to the Public Library in 1949 to "initiate the project." After 1949 the county would pay "... so much of the county library fund as shall be necessary to defray the cost and expense of the maintenance of [county service]. The amount to be paid ... shall be determined by a budget, prepared by the [library board] and approved by the [county board]." The contract is to continue in force until either party votes to terminate it.

The County Board of Commissioners appointed a sixteen member advisory board, one from each of the largest population centers of the county, to serve as liaison persons between the county librarian and the community. Even though the Advisory Board would have no legal authority, it was felt that any action desired by them at any future time could be effectively brought about by pressure or by simply requesting the Public Library board for the action desired.

At the beginning of the year all county residents were invited, through the county newspapers, to use the facilities of the Public Library free of charge. Plans were made to house the county collection in the already overcrowded public library building. By some minor renovation of the basement, a stack room was made possible which could accommodate some 6000 volumes. Plans were made to purchase a bookmobile for distributing books to all areas of the county, and for establishing three stations at Barnesville, Hawley, and Dilworth, each of which has over 1,000 population.

The Barnesville station is typical of the library stations in Clay County. It opened for service on October 15, 1949, in the community building. A collection of 400 books including adult, young people's, and juvenile works, fiction and non-fiction, formed the basis of the library. The library is managed by a community committee consisting of members from the eight civic organizations, headed by the County Advisory Board member in Barnesville, Mrs. S. E. Rice. Each month the committee meets to discuss any

local library problems. One club is responsible for the library each month and appoints a member who is the attendant in charge during the hours the station is open. There is no payment for services; all attendants are volunteer workers.

Miss Mary Cary began her work as County Librarian on August 1. There was much work to be done at headquarters selecting, ordering, and preparing books for the county collection. The county books are marked and shelf listed separately but the books are cataloged with the city books. Any special requests from county patrons are filled by using the Public Library books whenever necessary.

The County Librarian made personal visits to each community to discuss plans with the Advisory Board member before beginning library service. In each case, with the three exceptions mentioned, it was agreed to start library service from the bookmobile and, if the need became apparent, to establish a station later. After the arrival of the bookmobile* in November, regular county service was begun, with scheduled stops at stations, community centers, rural schools and farm homes.

*See specifications in *Minnesota Libraries* Vol. XVI, p. 84-86, Sept. 1949.

Have You Heard?

- Dr. Harold Dean Cater, Director, Minnesota Historical Society, has announced the appointment of Dan M. King of Muncie, Indiana, as Librarian of the Society. Mr. King, the ninth librarian to hold the position since the Society was founded in 1849, succeeds Russell F. Barnes who has become librarian of the Hill Reference Library in St. Paul.
- Helen Dombrowski has been appointed Librarian at Sleepy Eye to succeed Lydia S. Sasse who retired recently after 38 years of service.
- Alice Lewis has resigned from her position as Librarian of the American Legion Memorial Library of South St. Paul. She has accepted a position as field librarian for the state of New Mexico. Doris Northernscold has been named to succeed her. Miss Northernscold is a graduate of the University of Minnesota Division of Library Instruction, and has been serving as Librarian for the state of North Dakota at Bismarck.
- Mrs. Vivian G. Norrid is retiring from her position as Librarian at Eveleth where she has served since July, 1928.
- Edna Albro, Librarian at Spring Valley since 1920, has retired. Her successor is Mrs. Bertha Rafferty.
- Lelia Hall, Isanti County librarian, has resigned to become Assistant Librarian with the Marshall-Lyon County library. Her successor has not been announced.
- Mrs. I. R. Culshaw has succeeded Mrs. Harvey Rafnson as Librarian at the Minnesota public library.
- Leola Franandez, retired newspaper reference librarian, died recently. Before her retirement in 1946, Miss Fernandez had served for 32 years on the staff of the Minneapolis Tribune and the Minneapolis Times.

Isanti County Library

LELIA HALL

County Librarian, Isanti County Library

The idea of an Isanti County Library originated in 1916 in the minds of a group of women in the Village of Cambridge, the county seat. They formed a Home and Mothers' Circle which sponsored a traveling library in the Lewis department store. In 1923, the group reorganized as the Cambridge Community Club with its chief project a "bigger and better library." Lewis donated a business lot, provided that funds could be raised for a building. Though the project did not succeed, work done at that time laid the foundation for obtaining a library. In 1932, the name of the club was changed to Cambridge Community Library Club and all money raised was used for the library. The American Legion gave \$10 annually for the purchase of books, and beginning in 1939, the Village Council contributed \$100 each year for salary.

Mr. Lee Zimmerman, director of the Library Division, met with representatives of the Club and the Business Men's Association in 1945 to discuss county and regional library possibilities. The Club agreed to donate its book stock, furniture, and \$1,000, should the library materialize. Mrs. G. G. Kottke was appointed chairman of a promotion committee to work with the president, Mrs. W. E. Ballenthin. Later, Mr. Zimmerman attended a county-wide meeting. In April, 1946, Emily Mayne, M.L.A. President, spoke at a second all-county session and a County Library Association was organized. Officers elected were Mrs. W. E. Ballenthin, Cambridge, President; Mr. Robert Moody, Braham, Vice-President; Mrs. Albert Edling, Zimmerman, Secretary; and Mrs. Hans Grellson, Cambridge, Corresponding Secretary. A publicity director, and a district chairman from each of the five Commissioners' districts constituted a Ways and Means Committee. Chairmen were appointed from each of the thirteen townships and the five villages.

The Association decided to appear before the Commissioners at their annual meeting in July, 1946, and request the establishment of a county library. In preparation, 29 organizations went on record in favor of the Library and the Commissioners were in-

formed of their action. In addition, petitions were circulated and 1,778 signatures were obtained. (An average vote in the county is 3,500 to 4,000 votes)

Presentation of the petitions and reports of the sentiment in his area were made by each chairman to the Commissioners at the annual meeting. After much discussion, the delegates were able to convince the Commissioners to vote favorably for the maximum one-mill tax levy. Thus the Isanti County Library was established July 8, 1946.

The next obstacle to hurdle, that of finding quarters for the new library, was cleared when the Cambridge Village Council granted the use of the council room, together with its maintenance, and made a donation of \$200 for shelving.

The first Isanti County Library Board met September 26, 1946. The members were Mrs. W. E. Ballenthin, Cambridge, Chairman; Mrs. J. T. Swanson, North Branch, Secretary; Mrs. Joel Erickson, Braham; Mrs. Alton Steinbring, Isanti; and the Rev. W. C. Hilpert, Zimmerman. One of their first acts was to appoint a Librarian, Miss Lelia Hall, who began work in February, 1947.

Shelving for the Village Hall quarters was rebuilt to standard size, and the room was painted. The Librarian worked with the books, unpacking, sorting and classifying. About 1,200 books donated by the Library Club were accessioned, and an additional 750 in poor condition were placed on the shelves but have gradually been withdrawn. With the small book budget, this collection is inadequate for a village-county library and its stations. Mrs. Agatha Klein spent part of a day at the Library, advising and assisting with plans and orders. Although a few meetings were attended to publicize the Library, it was necessary for the Librarian to spend most of her time in the Library getting the collection ready for use.

Strong pressure for an early opening made it necessary to enlist volunteer assistance, so Girl Scouts, high school girls, and several Cambridge women gave a few afternoons to processing the books, using assembly line methods. This was repeated several times

during the following winter, with a volunteer typist coming in one afternoon a week. The Library opened June 2, 1947.

The problems now confronting the Librarian were legion. Sentiment toward the Library seemed adverse. Cambridge businessmen were not entirely convinced of the necessity for a library. Furthermore, strong opposition had arisen in the northern part of the county during the campaign, but this year's president, Mr. L. L. Shaeffer of Stanchfield, has been influential in bringing about a cooperative spirit in that area. It is gratifying to have the misunderstanding cleared up, since the support of this progressive part of the county is needed.

The tax levy for the first year of operation in 1947 was \$3,168.27; an additional \$2,066.07 was received as gifts from organizations and as the result of a tag day. Last July, after hearing the report on the problems of the County Library and the progress made during its short history, the Commission raised the budget to \$5,000 for 1950.

By the spring of 1949 there were nine stations in operation. Organizations which sponsor them agree to furnish space, shelving and volunteer attendants. During the past year, the P.T.A. at Crown spent approximately \$25, besides free labor for building shelving.

Much favorable publicity aids the Library in its growth, all four local newspapers giving free space to the Library's activities. Booths at the County Fair, Book Week celebrations and talks by the Librarian at the rural teachers' institutes and to organizations and groups of children have added to the Community's interest in this new service. In July of this year the Library Board sponsored a float at the annual Business Men's Roundup. During the past year, Mrs. R. G. Gully and Mrs. Arthur From, with the Librarian, have arranged monthly window displays, which have attracted much attention. Story hour has been attempted, but the

space is too limited, and the program interferes with regular service.

During the compilation of this report many weaknesses in the county library set-up have been noted, some of these arising out of the inadequacy of the Council Rooms as housing for the Library, an arrangement pleasing to no one. The councilmen and firemen became unhappy over the usurpation of their meeting-place. On election days the place must be cleared to make room for voting machines and judges' tables. The Mayor remarked last spring, "We did not know that the Library would become such a big project." "And completely fill the room with furniture!" he might have added. Larger quarters should be found very soon. Lack of storage space and a workroom are a serious problem, making it impossible to establish necessary services such as the promised school contracts, which have been deferred for an indefinite time.

The Librarian's salary is much lower than those of other professional workers in the county. Another full-time trained librarian and a part-time clerk are needed in the Cambridge headquarters if the Librarian is to have enough time to perform her administrative duties and to give good service out in the rural areas. The low book budget as well as lack of space necessitates weekly supplementary reference service from the Library Division.

A solution to the problems of budget, space and staff would be the establishment of a regional library. The A.L.A. National Plan for Public Library Service states that "the minimum annual income required for an effective library unit may be fixed at not less than \$37,500 with a population of 25,000 in the library's service area." Already Isanti County has a few out-of-county patrons paying an annual fee, and more are longing for the service. If several counties in the area pooled a 2 mill levy, much could be accomplished.

Kandiyohi County Library

LUCILLE GLOVER

County Librarian, Kandiyohi County Library

Only four people answered the invitation Mrs. Willard DeRuyter sent out asking interested people of Kandiyohi County to attend a meeting at the Willmar Public Library, October 3, 1945. Mrs. DeRuyter, after many conferences with Mr. Lee Zimmerman of the State Library Division, felt that the time for considering the need for a county library had come. From that small beginning, the Kandiyohi Library Association developed in 1946.

Petitions containing the signatures of 667 freeholders and more than 800 adult non-freeholders were presented to the Commissioners at a memorable meeting, July 8, 1946. Seventy people crowded the courtroom. Mrs. DeRuyter, Mrs. Klein of the State Library Division, and community leaders from every Commissioner's district asked that the request for a full mill levy be presented by the Commissioners for vote at the November election.

From that date until the election, the group contacted every available source of interest in an effort to arouse the voters. Regular use of radio was a feature of the campaign, 28 fifteen minute weekly broadcasts over KUOM, the Willmar radio station. Cooperation of the newspapers was liberal. Talks were given before any organization where rural people might be found, and mention of the plan was heard in churches and schools of the county. A slogan and poster contest was sponsored in order to reach the children in the schools and, through them, their parents. Letters were sent out to all persons in the county who might reach others with the library message. All of the Association members took part in a house-to-house campaign through the county.

The result of this concentrated action showed at the polls. There were 4,865 affirmative votes, and 1,965 negative votes. The Commissioners made their levy in July, 1947, and funds became available in March, 1948.

The Commissioners appointed a Library Board of five members: Mrs. Willard DeRuyter, the Rev. Andreas Freden, Mr. Herbert Feig, Mrs. Carlos Avery and Mrs.

Kermit Gandrud—one from each of the five Commissioner's districts. The Board drew up a tentative set of by-laws, including a provision to avoid "dead wood" on the Board—specifically the tendency to reappoint retiring members over a long term of years rather than bring in new blood. No member of the Board may serve more than two consecutive terms of three years each. He may be reappointed after an interval, however, if such action is found desirable.

The Librarian, Miss Lucille Glover, began her work in August, 1948.

We were fortunate in starting our plans for opening so late in the year, as it gave us the necessary accumulation of money to make the purchase of a bookmobile possible. Our county is an especially good field for bookmobile service. Aside from the fifteen small communities in which stations will eventually be established, there are many neighborhoods quite removed from service by stations and main library alone. The library serves all the county except the city of Willmar.

From August to December, there was a scramble and rush to get together books and equipment for the formal opening. On December 4, we opened the Library rooms in the Masonic Temple to the public, with 3,000 volumes and a staff of two people. Our bookmobile was due in January, but that part of our plan did not materialize until the following May. From December until May, we issued books from the headquarters and established one station, at Sunburg.

When the bookmobile arrived, we began our regular runs throughout the county. We have a Ford Vanette truck which carries 1,500 volumes and is manned by a staff of two—Librarian and driver, who also assists with the issuing of books. During May, we visited all the rural schools of the county and established stops of from 30 minutes to 2 hours in the various villages. During the summer we made runs to the various parts of the county and covered each route once each month. Besides the stops at schools and villages, we canvassed the farm homes which were directly on our

routes and made individual stops wherever service was desired.

Later we established four more stations and made many valuable contacts, familiarizing ourselves with the county and the people. Through newspaper and word-of-mouth publicity, we encouraged all those who were not directly on our routes to meet us at the homes of friends and at the stops in the villages. We posted large handbills in stores, cafes, etc. giving the time, location and date of our various stops. We have not used the radio to any great extent, principally because of lack of time for the preparation of such material. We do plan as soon as possible to make use of radio publicity in some form.

The Library Association remained active, and in 1948 and 1949 the County Fair furnished a booth free of charge. There a booklet giving our present plans and our future hopes was distributed. The ladies of the Association also held a sale of needlework and conducted a fish pond at the Fair both years. The money gained in 1948 was used to pay the expenses of an open house on the opening day of the Library, and the money accumulated this year will be used to purchase a record player for the Library and to start a lending library of recordings. This was number one on our list of future

hopes, so we are much pleased to find it materializing now. The Association has changed its name to Friends of the Library and is busy planning a celebration of our first birthday this December.

In September, we began our fall and winter series of bookmobile runs, which have been increased to fifteen, each one made every five weeks. We visit all the schools, and plans are now under way for contracting with them for library service. It is also becoming quite a familiar thing to find one or more parents waiting when we draw up to a school, to secure reading matter for themselves. The schools are usually the nearest spots for adults to reach us in case they do not live on one of the roads we follow.

At the present time we have definite plans in view for three more stations; our book stock has increased to over 6,000; we have outgrown our present quarters and plans are afoot to move into more spacious rooms. Our bookmobile has become a familiar sight to much of the county, with a daily circulation which often falls close to the three hundred mark. We are already beginning to look to the time when we may be able to have a home for ourselves in a county library building, with a staff sufficient to offer full county service.

Centennial Item

The Itasca Press, Webb Publishing Co., St. Paul, has just published *With Various Voices*, an important Centennial year event. Edited by Theodore C. Blegen and Philip D. Jordan, the book brings together the writings of more than fifty men and women who played parts, large and small, in the making of Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. 5.00.

Nobles County Library

WAYNE R. BASSETT

County Librarian, Nobles County Library

Prior to 1938, Nobles County, one of the most prosperous agricultural areas in Minnesota, had only one legally established public library—the Carnegie Public Library in Worthington, the county seat. The village of Ellsworth for a time had a Library Association and furnished library service of sorts, acting primarily as agent for getting books from the state library. One or two other communities had, at one time or another, local groups, such as study clubs, which performed the same function. These activities, however, were confined largely to the villages, and most rural residents were entirely without library service.

The WPA demonstration came to Nobles County in December, 1940, and lasted until November, 1942, when it was withdrawn after the county decided not to vote on the issue in the election of that year. The WPA demonstration during its two years circulated 23,573 books in the county, and, with a book collection of 2,148 volumes, served 1,884 registered borrowers through 8 stations.

From 1942 through 1946, the library stations set up by the WPA were kept operating through the efforts of civic-minded groups and individuals in the communities, largely under the leadership of Mr. Gene Miller, a minister from Adrian. These stations were serviced from Adrian, which was then levying a one mill tax for a library. The service given was necessarily on a minimum level, because of lack of funds, but it did maintain the elements of organization and service during the interim between the end of the WPA demonstration and the establishment of the county library in 1948.

In the last months of 1945, the State Library Division held a series of meetings in Nobles County. As a result of those meetings a County Library Promotional Committee was organized in early 1946. The Worthington Public Library Board sponsored the fall meetings because, according to the *Worthington Globe* (November 9, 1945), it "wishes to 'facilitate and clarify' its own library program for the future, an effort . . . being made to secure attendance . . . of the city council, the county commis-

sioners, farm leaders and chief officials of towns and villages of the county, as well as other representative citizens. Purpose of the joint meeting is to secure the kind of library set-up that may be desirable or necessary for all the citizens of the county." The Promotional Committee, composed of representatives of organizations from all parts of the county, including one member of the Board of Commissioners, decided in favor of presenting the issue to the voters at the November, 1946, election. This committee secured the necessary petitions of freeholders, solicited contributions for expenses, handled publicity, and held a series of informational meetings throughout the county. The State Library Division worked closely with this Committee furnishing publicity material, advice, and speakers, and conducting institutes.

In retrospect, it appears that a "merger" of the Worthington Public Library and the proposed county library was the goal at the time, to provide a county-wide system using the existing facilities as a nucleus. The Worthington Library had been serving an increasing number of rural residents and had furnished contract service to a number of rural schools. Rural people who were aware of these services were favorably disposed towards the merger. However, there were other factors such as intra-county rivalry (not unique) and a disposition on the part of some to build upon the skeleton service left from WPA days, which finally resulted in the issue's being placed on the ballot in the following form: Shall the Board of County Commissioners of Nobles County establish and maintain a County library to be financed by levying annually a one (1) mill tax (as provided by law) on all taxable property not already taxed for library purposes?

There were 5,549 votes cast on the question, which was carried by a majority of 981 votes. Of 20 townships, 8 voted *Yes* by 681 to 406, and 12 voted *No* 825 to 435. In 7 villages the issue was carried by a total vote of 609 to 303, and in 3 villages it failed by a vote of 205 to 130. Worthington voted *Yes* 1,410 to 865. This vote in Worthington.

plus an Adrian majority of 161, probably provided the margin of victory. The vote was close, although there was no organized opposition. The moral would seem to be "more intensive promotional work in strictly rural areas, and with strictly rural groups." There can be little doubt that the WPA demonstration and the interim volunteer work paid off in this election. In view of the closeness of the vote and the improvement in economic conditions between 1942 and 1946, it seems quite probable that local citizens who feared that the issue would be defeated if brought to a vote in 1942 and hence opposed bringing it to a vote at that time, were correct in their estimate of the situation.

The first levy for the County library was made in 1947, collectible in 1948, in the amount of \$13,500. A five-member Board was appointed, one from each commissioner's district, with staggered terms of office. This Board has complete control of the Library, including hiring of the Librarian. No contracts were signed with any existing libraries, but there has been close cooperation between the County and the Worthington Library Board, on a "gentlemen's agreement" basis. The County rented space in the basement of the Carnegie library. The libraries enjoy mutual use of the two book collections. This cooperation has progressed (November, 1949) to joint shelving and a combined catalog in the juvenile departments and will definitely lead to cooperative efforts in other aspects of library service. Because of this cooperation, the County was able to start station service much sooner than would have been possible otherwise.

Blanche Jones came from Missouri to be the first Librarian. She efficiently and rapidly organized the Library so that within two months after her arrival in July, 1948, some stations were receiving books. She took over school contracts from the Worthington Library and added others, for a total of 26 the first year. The cooperation of the city library juvenile department was of inestimable value in this phase of service. Mrs. Jones left to accept a position in

Louisiana in January, 1949, and the County was without a librarian until April 1.

Service has been developed in Nobles County on a station basis, using in many cases facilities and personnel of the WPA days. At present, (November 1) there are 10 stations, with another to open in November and negotiations under way for two more. There has been no consistent policy on support of local stations, with the result that in some cases the local community pays all costs, including salary, and in others the County pays all, with variations at other stations. This lack of consistency, based probably on expediency, creates more problems in the long run than it solves at the moment. Bookmobile service is for the future, and if developed will be supplemental to well-established stations. A panel truck is used for transporting books. Monthly delivery is made to *library stations* for teachers requesting such service, with contracts held by 38 out of 47 schools open this year. Teachers are anxious for bookmobile service, which the Library is not in a position to give without jeopardizing its whole program. It may be that in this county, during the promotional period, the possibilities of school service were overemphasized, with the result that there is some tendency to regard the Library as primarily a school service agency. While of great importance, both present and potential, school service in Nobles County is and will remain subsidiary to the overall program.

In long term goals and immediate objectives and problems the Worthington Library and the Nobles County Library have much in common. There is every reason to believe that the mutual cooperation evidenced so far will be continued in the solution of those problems and the achievement of the common goal—the best possible library service for all residents of the county. Regional library service may be coming, but in the meantime in a city-county relationship lies a microcosm of regional organization and problems encountered there, and the experience gained in solving them should be of great value when the time comes to move on to the larger field.

Minnesota County Libraries

(Under one basic County Library Law, Minnesota libraries have developed varying types of county service. Thirteen meet the standards for American Library Association listing, twelve others offer some measure of county service and receive an apportionment of county funds. The four newest have been described in other articles in this issue. Others are included in the present composite article, intended to give a current picture of County Library Service in Minnesota, continuing the history presented in Minnesota Libraries, December, 1943; June, 1944; and September, 1944. In cases where the full background had not been published previously, the Librarians were asked to include the full history of the service. The series will be completed in the March, 1950, issue.—Editor's note.)

Blue Earth County

The Blue Earth County Library is still in a state of expansion and consolidation. In addition to the main library, it maintains two branches and thirteen stations. Rural school service, inaugurated in October, 1943, is participated in by 100% of the schools. Two graded elementary and secondary schools also contract for service. The 100% coverage of towns and rural schools enables all community libraries to serve urban and county readers alike, because everyone pays a uniform tax.

When the County Library was established in July, 1941, the two larger towns, Mapleton and Lake Crystal, were already supporting established libraries. Both communities took pride in their work; and fearful of county organization, quoted the law that no group can be taxed twice for library purpose. Their opposition was based on:

1. Fear of losing their own identity and their library board.
2. Belief that they must merge their entire book collection with that of the county.
3. The thought that expenses would mount.
4. Fear that county supervision would be dictatorial, and that they would have no choice in books.

The Mapleton library, set up under Carnegie rules, was appropriating \$500 a year for full maintenance. Both local boards were surprised to find that a one-mill tax would

be less than they had been paying. When informed that they could decide local policies and keep their own books, both boards voted unanimously to join the county system, Mapleton joining in October, 1944, and Lake Crystal in February, 1945. Both library collections were thoroughly weeded, cleaned and mended; Mapleton's catalog was reorganized, and a new attendant hired. The village council, enthusiastic over their new affiliation, voluntarily increased their library appropriation to cover renovation of the building and installation of a new oil burner.

Lake Crystal, besides paying a one-mill tax, pays its own attendant, purchases periodicals and a children's book club subscription, and contributes to a memorial collection.

Some of the library services appreciated most by patrons are:

1. Daily accessibility of books at nearest trading centers.
2. Work with schools as described elsewhere.
3. Cooperation with study clubs. The Librarian meets with program committees during the summer. New books are evaluated for inclusion in yearly program. Topics are kept on file at library, and all program material is delivered in advance to nearest local station.
4. Requests and special needs encouraged, if necessary resorting to State Library Division aid and inter-library loans.
5. Timely booklists, current favorites being "Minnesota Centennial" and "Mental Health."
6. Visiting county organizations with attractive book displays, so that County Library is accepted as integral part of community life.

Some old problems remain. As the library expands, work in the central library increases. The staff of two assistants remains the same as six years ago. The Librarian, involved in book selection, keeping of financial records, and public relations activities, is not able to spend sufficient time out in the communities. She does not have time for direct contact with the readers that is made necessary by the lack of reading background of some of the attendants, usually store owners who are paid a small fee for

being responsible for the books. High wage demands have forced a gradual decrease in the number of paid attendants. An additional assistant on the staff would relieve the Librarian of much of the routine office work and release her time for work out in the county.

The County Library, housed in Mankato Public Library building, pays a monthly rental. The City Board serves also as County Library Board. Tax levies, fines, and school warrants are kept in a general library fund at the Court House; all bills are paid by County Treasurer.

Books are transported in the car of the Librarian, who receives mileage for travel. This eliminates the extra salary of a truck driver.

The total budget of approximately \$14,500 is fully absorbed by rising costs. However, the book collection of 27,000 and a circulation of 143,000 provide tangible evidence of county-wide service. Mrs. Margaret Leonard, *Librarian*.

Hennepin County

The Hennepin County Library, in operation since 1922, is financed by a one-mill tax on property outside the cities of Minneapolis and Hopkins. By a contract signed yearly by the Hennepin County Commissioners, the Minneapolis Library Board and its Librarian are administrators of the county library fund. A director and headquarters staff are appointed by the Library Board. From 1925 to 1947, Miss Ethel Berry was director of the Hennepin County Library, and under her able direction it became a vital agency of education and recreation in the county. Under terms of the contract, resources of the Minneapolis Public Library are available to county residents, in addition to the county library book collection which now totals over 92,000 volumes.

Branches, located in the 23 towns and villages, are housed in quarters provided by the local community. Some are in town halls, a few in store buildings, a number have their own separate buildings, and ten are combined school and public libraries located in school buildings. In the school branches, the school board and the county library unite in paying the salary of the attendant. Books bought by school funds are cataloged at County Library headquarters but are shelved permanently in the

school branch and are available to the community as a whole. Each branch is visited once a month by bookmobile and taken a fresh supply of books. Between deliveries, books for special requests are mailed to branches, individuals, and schools.

Each rural public and parochial school in the county is visited once a month on regularly scheduled days. Requests sent in ahead of time are filled as far as possible, and additional books are selected from the bookmobile by children and teachers. There are now 57 public and 13 parochial schools served by bookmobile.

There are 8 deposit stations in crossroad grocery stores, in churches, at the County Home, Masonic Home, etc. We feel that deposit stations are the least satisfactory method of book distribution in our county. There is almost no direct contact between the library staff and the borrowers, and the busy grocer or attendant has neither the time nor the training to make books vital to his community.

From the beginning the Hennepin County Library has had a bookmobile to take books and staff out to rural areas and to deliver books to branches, stations, rural schools and to individual homes located more than 3 miles from a library distribution point. Once a month on regularly scheduled days the bookmobile stops in farm yards or suburban streets, and from farm houses and suburban bungalows come farmers, housewives, pre-school toddlers and teenagers, each wanting books. This direct contact with a great variety of county residents keeps the library staff alert to the needs of the book collection and the trend in book requests. By bookmobile we are now making over 500 individual home and neighborhood stops.

Our county library needs a publicity campaign to acquaint the many new residents with the services of the library. Each year the bookmobile goes to the County Fair, and the librarian meets and talks with 4-H Club groups, rural school teachers and farmers. Book reviews and material about local library happenings appear in a number of county papers, written by the local attendant. A great deal more in the line of publicity could be undertaken with more staff or time available. Two "Friends of the Library" groups are in process of or-

ganization in the county and are helping to improve the physical quarters of their local libraries.

A new branch library in the suburban community of Richfield is a must for the near future, and when established will cut down greatly the number of stops at individual homes.

And we are looking forward to a new bookmobile in our future — we hope in 1950! Helen Young, *Librarian*

Itasca County

Back in 1907, when the Grand Rapids Library had a collection of 1,537 books, it became apparent that some plans and finances would be needed in order to supply books for the rural readers. At that time four-fifths of the population of Itasca County lived within a twelve mile radius of Grand Rapids, so, quoting the 1907 library minutes, the Board entered into "a contract with Itasca County for supplying to any resident of the county such books as were in the library, on the same terms as to residents of the village. The consideration to be \$100 annually."

From this small beginning, the service has grown and grown. There are five branches, with a new one starting in November at Effie, Minnesota. The book stations are scattered throughout the county, but even so, there are many people out of reach, and we hope that some day finances will grow enough so that the county may own a small bookmobile. In 1948, the income was \$8,734.92 for library service for 18,144 county residents.

In the towns where there are station libraries, the community pays the salary of the attendant and furnishes a location for the books. In two of the stations the attendant also takes care of the water and light rentals, and in one she has charge of the information for the tourist trade. These are open five days a week. The other two are open for service so little we wish it could be different, because the business is there. The Public Library furnishes the processed books, the supplies and the transportation. The attendants at the stations may select any book from the main library.

In January of 1934, on a recommendation from the Board of County Commissioners, the practice of sending package libraries to all rural schools was discontinued. (None

were ever furnished to city schools.) We were informed that the money allocated by the Commissioners was not for required reading in the schools. This had been a free service to the schools. When the School Boards were approached for financial aid, the matter was dropped. The library does lend books to the schools for recreational reading, and these are charged direct to the teachers. School District No. 1 is willing to draw up a contract with the library if bookmobile service is given. Perhaps some day this librarian's dream may come true. —Mrs. Mata C. Bennett, *Librarian*.

Lyon County

Concluding her article on the Lyon County Library in *Minnesota Libraries*, September, 1944, Mrs. Schnickel expressed the hope that a trained assistant would soon be hired and that a basic book collection would rapidly be built up. The assistant did not materialize until December, 1945; from that time until March, 1948, the staff included two trained librarians. The building of the book collection fared very well; by the end of 1946, 9,157 books had been accessioned. The library had begun operations in March, 1944.

The big event of recent history was the reorganization of the library in 1947. On June 3, a contract was signed by the Lyon County Board of Commissioners and the Board of Trustees of the Carnegie Public Library of Marshall. This contract provides that payments from the County Library fund shall be made to the City Treasurer and that all such funds shall be under the supervision of the Library Board. The county appropriation for 1949 will amount to about \$10,000; the city appropriation, \$4,000. The city furnishes the building, heat, light.

In July, 1947, the book collections of the two libraries were combined, as were the card catalogs and shelf lists. Adult books are shelved upstairs in the Carnegie building; juvenile books in the basement. The entire collection is available without charge to anyone living in Lyon County, with the exception of Minnesota and Tracy residents, who have their own public libraries. Since the beginning of re-registration in September, 1947, 1,054 rural patrons have registered; this figure does not include the pupils in the rural schools which contract with

the library. 1,743 Marshall residents have registered in the past two years. Altogether, library patrons read a total of 52,585 books in 1948.

The rural service includes delivery to 11 stations and 1 branch. The Library hires a local delivery service; the Librarian accompanies the driver, and together they load, unload, and slip the books. One trip a week is the rule with two stations usually serviced in one day. The longest trip is 50 miles; the shortest, 23. The Cottonwood branch has a permanent collection of over 400 books. In addition about 130 books are exchanged every 7 weeks. Stations are located as follows: Amiret, barber shop; Balaton, City Hall; Burchard, store; Dudley, grain elevator; Florence, private home; Garvin, bank; Green Valley, barber shop; Lynd, post office; Russell, barber shop; Sampson's Corner, store; Taunton, drug store. Most stations are open all day every day; the fee paid the attendant varies from \$5 to \$10 a month.

Twenty-two of the twenty-nine rural schools now open in Lyon County are contracting with the library this year with 353 pupils enrolled. The first collections sent out this fall included 1,309 books. Usually the teacher or a school board member calls for the books, although a few collections are delivered by the Librarian on station trips.

Now for just a word about our problems. First of all, there is the absence of professional help, for one trained librarian now serves both libraries. Because of the press of duties at headquarters she has no time to visit the stations except on regular trips. An untrained assistant has been in charge of the children's department and the rural school collections since April, 1948. Another difficulty is sometimes encountered at stations: one place was closed because of illness in the attendant's family, and remains closed because no one is willing—or able—to take over. This is regrettable, because, while the station was in operation, a great many people used it. Another pressing problem is the crowded condition at headquarters, with almost no room for additional books in the adult department, and no space available for more shelving without sacrificing valuable seating room. These problems are not all peculiar to county libraries,

but they are very real, and their solution would result in much better library service to the residents of Lyon County.—Mrs. Margaret Eubanks, *Librarian*.

Martin County

The period from 1943 to 1949 brought a rapid growth in circulation and number of borrowers using the Martin County Library. The people were eager to read, the Board especially interested and cooperative, and the one-mill tax and school contracts produced funds sufficient to provide basic book service. The county system included twelve stations, two Graded Elementary and Secondary schools, 66 rural schools and two rural Parochial schools. The circulation in 1948 was 125,248; the income, \$15,977, the combined book stock 25,521. Two problems arose, resulting in the Board's placing on record a statement that as soon as funds were available, mobile equipment must be purchased and larger quarters found. A greater problem, however, was faced in 1945, when the County Commissioners reduced the levy twenty per cent. For two years of constant effort, through newspaper publicity, community activity, meetings with the Commissioners, sidewalk conversations, talks at meetings of organizations throughout the county, the Library Board, the Librarian and patrons of the Library utilized every opportunity to urge the restoration of the levy. The goal was reached in July, 1947. E.L.M.

Since the resignation of Miss Emily L. Mayne in December, 1948, the Library Board has been trying unsuccessfully to fill the position. Miss Joan Wannarka, former library assistant, has been in charge of the Library since that time. During 1949, the Library continued under the direction of the Board including Mr. Harry P. Bradt, Sherburn, President; Mr. Louis Vogel, Fairmont, Vice-president; Mr. Arthur J. Peterson, Triumph, Secretary; M. J. Helvig, Truman. Mrs. Neal Bode of Ceylon resigned because of other duties and the vacancy was filled in September by the appointment of Mrs. Arthur J. Lockner of Ceylon.

The Library serves all people of Martin County except residents of Fairmont who are not rural taxpayers. In addition to the headquarters at Fairmont, the Library serves twelve stations at Ceylon, Dunnell, East Chain, Granada, Monterey, Nashville,

Northrop, Sherburn, Truman, Triumph, Welcome, and Wilbert. During the summer the Wilbert store was sold and the station moved to a nearby home. The Librarian in charge delivers books in her car, for which she is paid six cents per mile. Visits are made as often as time permits. Each attendant has been asked to put forth special effort during Book Week to increase circulation and make the station more attractive. Plans have been made for distribution of posters and new books by the Librarian. Mail service is used weekly to distribute requested books and other material.

Besides the twelve stations, the library contracts with both East Chain and Granada Consolidated schools, the contracts being based on \$1 per pupil in attendance plus a \$25 service and supply fee. Special requests are also filled from time to time as is done at the stations.

The Martin County Rural School Library, Mrs. Jessie Sisson, Librarian, is this year supplying 64 rural schools including two rural Lutheran Parochial schools. The continuing contracts require the payment of \$1 per pupil in average daily attendance plus a \$5 service and supply fee.

Since the Library is located on a central business street, the parking problem after school and on Saturday has increased steadily. Teachers who double-parked to unload books were given tickets for illegal parking though no space was available for blocks. A No Parking bag has been obtained from the police department for use after school and on Saturday.

This year the Library has again worked with Study Clubs throughout the county. The Librarian met with program chairmen during the summer to acquaint them with the services the Library could offer.—Joan Wannarka, *Acting Librarian*.

Ramsey County

The ground work for the Ramsey County Library was laid in 1922 and 1923 by Miss Myra W. Buell, Chief of Library Extension Division of the St. Paul Public Library. During these two years she visited Mothers' Clubs and Parent Teacher Meetings, talking County Library service. In 1923 an appropriation of \$1,000 for library service in Ramsey County was included in the budget by the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners. By the end of 1926 twenty-eight school

districts in Ramsey County had signed contracts with the St. Paul Public Library whereby they agreed to turn over their annual library book fund and state aid to the library. This arrangement enabled the library to place a larger collection of juvenile books at the disposal of each community. Boxes of books were picked up and returned at specified locations by book-minded citizens interested in County Library service. Stations were located for the most part in schools. Adult service was facilitated by holding "Library Day" on the same day as the Mothers' Club meeting.

Book service was given at the County Jail, the County Farm for the Aged, and the corrective schools for boys and girls. The County Library also assumed its share of expenses for services given to patients of Ancker Hospital by the St. Paul Public Library. In 1945 the County Library's share was assumed by the County Welfare Board.

Little information can be found on the purchase of the first bookmobile. It began operating on June 1, 1927, with a staff of two — a male chauffeur and the librarian. Service was given every two weeks. Book charging was done standing up. Heat was inadequate and insulation non-existent. Real pioneer spirit was necessary to give library service in Minnesota with such a vehicle.

The 1935 bookmobile replacement was larger, but it still had no insulation and only inadequate heat. On dark days a flashlight had to be used to read book titles. No record is found of the number of stops made by the first bookmobile, but in 1939 the second bookmobile stopped at 5 stations, 30 schools, and 140 houses. With the growth of the schools, house stops were discontinued and adults were served at the school and community stops. Monthly service was given in 1937.

A reduction in budget in 1939 caused a cut in staff and a curtailment of service. Service was given every six weeks. The reduction in staff would have been a worse blow if the library had not been able to obtain help through the W. P. A., which furnished two clerical helpers and one book mender.

In August, 1941, the County Library, having outgrown the space formerly occupied in the St. Paul Public Library, moved

to the fifth floor of the St. Paul Municipal Auditorium. The book collection had grown from 1,112 volumes in 1923 to 21,996 volumes in 1939.

Again there was need of a new bookmobile, but due to the war immediate purchase was impossible. In February, 1946, this urgent need was brought before the District School Board Members' Annual Meeting. Purchase was made possible through a cooperative plan of the School Boards of Ramsey County District Schools and the County Library. The new bookmobile, costing \$5,893 and put into service April 1, 1947, is a dream fulfilled, with all steel construction, skylights, adequate lighting and heating, insulation, and accommodations for about 16 patrons at one time, while carrying a book stock of over 2,000 volumes.

The library service has grown during the period since 1923: population served, from 6,000 to 16,434; budget, from \$1,000 to \$16,986; book collection, from 1,112 to 31,938 volumes; circulation, from 21,911 to 74,199; school enrollment, from 1,222 to 3,000; staff, from a part-time staff loaned by the St. Paul Public Library, to a staff of five full time employees.—Mrs. Ruth Palmer, *Librarian*.

St. Louis County

Library service was begun in St. Louis County in 1937 with an appropriation of \$4,000 made to each of four public libraries: Duluth, Ely, Hibbing, and Virginia, and areas assigned to those libraries (see *Minnesota Library Notes and News* for June, 1937). There are in the county approximately 48,000 people outside of the thirteen cities and villages that have tax supported public libraries. These are now served through collections of books in 108 stores, schools, town halls, and private homes. Stuntz Township is covered by the Hibbing book bus.

Approximately 15% of the residents of the rural area were registered in 1948, and, as many took books for an entire family on one card, it is safe to say that close to half of the population made use of the library.

Except for the closely settled area in Stuntz Township, bus service has not been attempted as the areas served extend up to 85 miles from the distribution centers, but collections are changed frequently and personal requests met as promptly as possible—

Jane Morey, Duluth; Mrs. Ruth Nankervis, Ely; Isabel Thouin, Hibbing; Mrs. Nellie Yantes, Virginia, *Librarians*.

Hibbing

The St. Louis County Library service for the Hibbing area is under the supervision of the Library Board of the Village of Hibbing. There are fourteen public stations and nine schools, and, in addition, four stations located in homes when schools are not in session. Six of the schools serve the pupils only, while three also serve adults.

A passenger car is used to transport books to stations and schools; if weather permits, collections are changed every six weeks. Stuntz Township, in which Hibbing is located, is served by a library bus.

The chief function of the county library is to take books to people living in isolated communities. In the Hibbing area, besides the usual demand for escape reading, serious fiction, informational material, etc., there is also a demand for books in foreign languages, especially Finnish.

Another important function is to take books to schools. Many school libraries have inadequate space for a permanent collection, and children welcome the public library service which affords them variety in their reading matter. One of the most valuable aspects of this service is familiarizing the rural children with the kinds of service offered by public libraries when they finish their school life and go to larger communities to find employment.

The greatest problem of the Hibbing area service is financial; we have the same appropriation today as we had in 1937 when the county library service was begun. Aside from the area served by the township library bus, the county librarian does not have direct contact with the public she serves. A bookmobile for the whole county would be ideal, but distances are too great to attempt this in St. Louis County.—Ida Friedman, *Head, County Service*.

Virginia

The Virginia area of the St. Louis County Service extends from Crane Lake, 80 miles north, to Brimson, 55 miles south, an area of about 1,750 square miles. It includes 22 townships whose residents are entitled to county library service through the Virginia Public Library. In this area there are at present 25 stations in post offices and stores,

9 school library stations, and 4 stations in the main lodges of lake resorts. Collections vary in size from 60 to 400 books, according to the size of the area and the number of registered borrowers.

To cover the area the Virginia library maintains a book truck which makes two trips a week visiting the various stations with a trained librarian in charge. On each visit the county librarian counts the circulation, changes the collection, offers reference or book selection aid, and picks up special requests, which are often filled by mail. She is also available for book reviews.

Each station is in charge of an attendant who works without pay. Among the duties of the attendant are the following: providing a suitable place for the collection; charging books to the patrons (which more often than not, the patron does himself); taking applications from prospective borrowers. Each borrower is registered for three years, and upon presentation of the card at the Public Library in Virginia, is eligible for the same service as a city patron.

The present problem is the librarian's expenditure of time. Visiting the stations more often would, no doubt, result in a better understanding of individual station problems. Facilities and services should be expanded in two stations, but until more adequate funds are available, it will not be possible.

In spite of some problems in rendering county library service, we feel that our county service has done its part, along with the automobile and radio, to break down old isolation of the farm, and to bring reading pleasure to our rural residents as well as to the many tourists who visit our resorts. —Anita Gordon, *Head, County Service.*

Stearns County

The Stearns County Library is housed in what was formerly a Unitarian Church and is located directly behind the St. Cloud Public Library, a convenient location for library loans. The staff includes one librarian and three clerical assistants. The County and City Libraries share one library board. There is no county representation on it, but all bills are approved by the Library Board and then submitted to the County Commissioners, and all financing is conducted through the county auditing department.

The Library still receives a one mill tax which yields about \$14,000 a year.

Because the county is large in area—1,400 square miles—many of its residents make use of our mailing system. We think this is one of our better services, and one that brings individual satisfaction to the patrons. We also receive many requests for women's club report material. Our rural school service consumes a great deal of time, but maintains a good contact with rural residents who might otherwise never be aware of the County Library.

We service 97 rural schools and 22 public stations. Book deliveries are made once each month by the County Librarian. All but two of the stations are operated on a self-service basis, although most of them are watched over by an interested person in the community. They are located in rent-free space, in schools, post offices, drug stores, village halls and bakeries. In most cases direct deliveries are made to the rural schools, and the teachers are urged to send in special requests for books. Soon we hope to be able to add to our service an arrangement with the Minnesota Art Association by which a picture may be sent with each book delivery. The pictures would be supplied by the art group. Delivery with the books is planned to eliminate extra expense.

The problems of our County Library are probably like those of most libraries. We need to teach our rural people what services are available to them; then, as the use develops, so will the service. If the staff can sometime be expanded to include a school librarian for full time service to the rural schools, a more complete coverage of the county can be made. Transporting the books is, of course, a large item in both expense and time. We have an arrangement with a local taxicab company which supplies a driver and a car whenever called.

Patrons from all parts of the county write or stop in for books. Many of them we have never seen and know only by their signatures on postal cards. Perhaps the women's clubs and the schools are our most regular patrons, but we have many men who are frequent borrowers. — Mary C. Baker, *Librarian.*

Waseca County

In the past three years, Waseca County has taken a long step forward toward full

county library service, and both town and rural people can look forward to better facilities. Four librarians have contributed to the development of the Library. They are Miss Ione Nelson, Mrs. Evelyn Bowen, Mrs. Richard Standing, and Mrs. Nellie Yantes. The major progress in the past three years came under the direction of Mrs. Nellie Yantes, who succeeded Mrs. Standing in September, 1946, and who resigned in June, 1949, to accept the position of librarian at Virginia, Minnesota.

The County Library now has two branches and six stations, and serves the 48 rural schools in the county. The library has been active in community affairs and has accomplished many major gains. The important projects include a new bookmobile to serve stations and rural schools, plans on the way for a new building, and an increase in the county levy from one to one and one-half mills.

The Waseca Public Library, usually known as the Waseca County Library, has a contract with the county to serve the rural areas. The city three-mill tax produces \$4,811.07 and the county one-mill tax \$6,857.20; rural school contracts for \$516 and other income bring the total to \$12,772.89. The County Board of Commissioners last July raised the levy one-half mill, which will add \$3,500 in 1950.

After more than a year of planning and publicizing, the question of a library building was placed before the voters on April 7, 1947. Waseca people showed their approval by voting a \$75,000 bond issue for the project.

Because it was a period of high building costs, the City did not take action immediately. It was not until last spring that the City Council authorized preliminary plans and hired Magney, Tusler and Setter, Minneapolis, as architects. Preliminary plans were approved this October, and working plans and specifications are now being drawn up.

Another major step completed this year was the purchase of a bookmobile. The campaign for funds started in the spring of 1947. Publicity included newspaper articles, miniature bookmobiles in stores as receptacles for donations, and talks by the Librarian to service groups. Private individuals, organizations and business con-

cerns contributed, and over \$1,200 was raised throughout the county. The City Council matched that sum, and later, when the money proved insufficient for the desired equipment, contributed an additional \$700.

The bookmobile—a 1949 Dodge route delivery with shelves installed—was bought in August and is now in operation. It visits all 48 rural schools, and children and adults walk in to select their own books. The vehicle is also used to exchange books in the stations and the larger schools in the county.

The library has enjoyed good publicity and strong support from service organizations. The Monday Study Club raised \$100 for reference books last spring. The Child Study, League of Women Voters, and American Association of University Women have all aided the library. The American Legion post passed the first resolution in favor of a building, while the Junior Chamber of Commerce mailed out a city-wide letter explaining the need. Other organizations also stepped in to help when they were asked.

In community affairs the library has sponsored a variety of activities. Free language courses were conducted for several years, with German, Spanish and French being taught by volunteer teachers. In 1947-48 the Library sponsored the first University Artists course, which grew into the Waseca Concert Association, with 600 members in 1949-50. Other services include story hours throughout the County during the summer and at the Library from January to June, and an annual school art exhibit for Book Week. The latter promotion brings in art work from the eight grades in the county schools. During the exhibit, refreshments are served to visitors, and prizes are given for each grade.—Willard J. Donohue, *Librarian*.

Watsonwan County

Since the last history of the Watsonwan County Library was printed in *Minnesota Libraries*, 39 rural schools have affiliated for service, which means that every rural school in the county has accepted the opportunity to have access to all of the books bought with pooled funds. Each school may borrow a group of 20 books for a period of six weeks.

An ever-increasing number of students from both the high school and the nearby colleges avail themselves of the reference library for help in preparing their regular lessons and in giving speeches or writing themes.

A new activity which has increased the interest in the County Library is the visual aid program. A projector is available to the rural schools, and the County Library acquires films for their use. A committee made up of rural school teachers and the County Librarians meet to arrange a program of films that will fit in with the coming school term's course of study. Other educational films and an occasional comic are also selected. The films are delivered to the Library, and the rural teachers call for and return them to the Library. Six or seven schools combine to show films once a month, in one of the schools or in some centrally located room. The film program has been well attended and interest is great.

The greatest difficulty is in planning the circulation of new books so that they reach as many of the stations as possible while the books are new. Needless to say, it is impossible to have a copy of every new book in every station at the same time. Every one wants the new books as soon as they are received. If copies were purchased for each station the shelves would soon be filled with books no longer wanted.

The County Library consists of the central library, a branch library at Madelia, and eight stations. The Library contains 12,000 volumes, and the rural school library 1,900. Books are delivered to the stations by the Librarians who are paid five cents per mile.

The object of the County Library is to provide the best possible service to the county by furnishing them with good reading and a source of information for solving the questions and problems which come up in their lives.—Mrs. A. S. Crowley and Mrs. E. C. Meier, *Librarians*.

Mailing List

In an effort to reach as many librarians and library trustees as possible despite a rigidly limited edition, the mailing list of *Minnesota Libraries* has been revised. Under the present mailing policy one copy is sent to the Head Librarian and another to the President of the board. The first copy is for the official file kept at the library; the President's copy is for circulation among the members of the board. Because of continuous changes in personnel of both board and staff, personal names have been eliminated. Each issue is sent to the *officer* not the *person*.

County Library and Rural School Service

MARGARET LEONARD, *Blue Earth County Librarian*

and

RUTH ERSTED, *State Supervisor of School Libraries*

"How does the organization of a county library benefit the children in the rural schools of Minnesota?" is a question often asked during the promotion campaign for a county library. The answer can be a prompt and whole-hearted one, for in county libraries where careful planning is developing well-balanced service, the foundations are being laid for some of the best service to children given anywhere in the state.

"Does this service always come with the establishment of a county library?", or "How do we go about getting it?" is probably the next doubleheader. Like most good things in the world, this one also has to be planned for, and worked at, and encouraged to grow. Successful developments depend in large measure on the amount of cooperation between the library, the rural school, and the Library Division of the State Department of Education. The formal basis of organization is a contract which requires the school to turn its book funds over to the county library.

It is at this point that many people ask, "Why should the schools have to make additional payments since the county is already taxed for library service?" There are two answers: the State Department of Education requires the schools meeting its minimum standards to make provisions for library service and to spend a minimum of \$1 per pupil per year for approved books. In establishing a county library, service is extended to all residents—to all *individuals*—in the county, but there are no obligations to any institutions, nor should there be.

New Patterns Emphasized

The need for library service in the school is quite generally accepted today, but an understanding of the consistency and content of that service still needs to be promoted among some librarians and most school teachers and administrators. A collection of books—even their distribution—does not constitute a library; we are primarily concerned in a modern school library program, with the ways we use books in working with

boys and girls and their teachers. No one expects a county librarian to duplicate the kind of service it is possible to have when a school librarian works full time in one building, but there are certain desirable patterns which can be copied. One of these is the organization of committees of teachers to work with the librarian in making a selection of materials. County librarians generally need enlightenment about the curriculum, the reading program, teaching methods, and individual differences of pupils, while teachers generally need to know more about books and the ways to use them in guiding the development of their pupils. Several counties have made an admirable start on this problem, and others are encouraged to do so.

Whether the county librarian works alone or with a teacher committee, the selection of appropriate materials is of first importance. Booklists approved by the State Department of Education are the *Children's Catalog* and its supplements, the children's books in the *A.L.A. Booklist*, and the *Minnesota School Library List Supplement*. The Rue subject indexes will also be of help.

Service in Eight Counties

There are eight county libraries where contract service to rural schools is being developed on an adequate basis under the direction of a professional librarian: Blue Earth, Clay, Lyon, Martin, Nobles, Ramsey, Stearns, and Waseca. Their patterns of operation are so similar that a description of one essentially is a description of the others. The Blue Earth County Library has been chosen as an illustration because it was one of the earliest libraries to organize under recent criteria, and in consequence it has had more time than most to develop arrangements with all rural schools and to experiment with extensions of service.

Rural School Service in Blue Earth County

In October, 1943, at the suggestion of the Minnesota Library Division, the Blue Earth County Library began to organize library

service for its rural schools. All procedures were planned with and approved by the State Supervisor of School Librarians.

To sell this new idea took two years of trial service before an endorsement was won from the County Superintendent of Schools, the teachers, and the school boards, but now all 52 rural schools contract on the basis of \$1 per pupil (a \$10 minimum) for books and \$2 per teacher for supplies. Each school is responsible for the transportation of its own books, but the librarian delivers books to any schools which are on her direct route or leaves books at the nearest library station.

Borrowing Regulations

School may borrow three books per pupil or more if desired. Professional reading for teachers is provided. Books may be kept as long as needed, and all or part of the collection may be exchanged. This flexibility regarding the loan period has won the approval of the teachers. The Librarian prefers to have teachers make their own selections, but upon request she will assemble a collection with the help of a record indicating the number of boys and girls in each grade. Teachers are not restricted to the school collections but may choose from the entire library collection. In making purchases the Librarian follows curriculum trends, selects materials to enrich the teaching programs, provides for various reading levels and interests, and constantly keeps in mind the need which children have of reading for fun. Selections are made only from State approved lists, and highly recommended books are made easily available by the purchase of additional copies.

Teacher Cooperation

Books to be purchased are selected by the County Librarian assisted by a teacher committee of four rural teachers who carefully check the monthly booklists from the State Department of Education as they discuss their needs and those of their pupils. The work of the committee varies each year according to interests and aptitudes of teachers. In 1948-49, one teacher compiled a list on animal life and nature study, another suggested subject headings for the card catalog, still another teacher listed a group of library activities and devices for encouraging reading which she had found helpful. This year one teacher prepared a

booklist from titles used in the latest literature achievement tests.

Working with the Teachers Colleges

One of the most rewarding experiences is that of cooperating with the teacher training program at the Mankato State Teachers College. Each quarter the entire group of practice teachers and their supervisor visit the County Library for a talk on library service and objectives. Practice teachers are encouraged to use the county collection in planning their teaching units. Library students at summer school are required to visit the County Library, and many accompany the librarian on field trips. (A certain amount of recruiting has also been done in this way!)

Extending the Service

Because most of the schools in the smaller towns of the state have almost as much difficulty in securing adequate library service as the rural schools do, the Blue Earth County Library has been experimenting with an extension of service to the schools in Rapidan and Pemberton. The contract arrangements regarding funds are similar to those of the rural school in that they call for a book expenditure of \$1 per pupil plus a supply fee, but one-third of the book fund is used to purchase materials which are returned to the school as part of its permanent collection.

The advantages of the plan are that it relieves the school librarian of performing the ordering, processing, and cataloging procedures, it develops the library within the school, and at the same time contributes to the central collection of books which is used by all participating schools. It has the potential disadvantages of allowing the school to shift too much of its responsibility to the county library, and of requiring a disproportionate amount of the librarian's time for which the school pays nothing. The plan is an exciting one, and there is nothing inherently wrong with its present development that cannot be cured by an increase in school library trained personnel, both in the school and in the county library.

Conclusion

Each state necessarily develops its library service patterns in accordance with its own needs. In Minnesota we believe that the plans described here provide good results for the boys and girls in our rural schools.

Campaigning for a Library

EMILY L. MAYNE

Supervisor of Extension Library

If letters received at the State Library Division are an indication, in every corner of Minnesota, some citizen is asking himself, "How can we secure a library for our home community?" The query rises logically from observing the 25 counties which have some county rural service today; from noting the publicity arising as a library survey is being made by the Minnesota Legislative Research Committee; from the state-wide emphasis given by 700 local Parent Teachers Association units; from the important place improvement of Minnesota libraries has in the American Association of University Women program; and from the pioneer interest of farm organizations and women's groups, which has been cumulating for a decade.

That courageous citizen can become the agent of all those people who would gladly help gain libraries for more than 900,000 bookless Minnesota adults and children living in villages and in the country, those people who would cooperate if they knew more about libraries, and if someone would start a local campaign. That interested individual should first secure accurate information from the State Library Division, then discuss the need with a local organization, urging it to sponsor a drive for a county or regional library. Officers of the group might then invite representatives of every organization in the county, leaders in each community activity—schools, churches, service, farm and labor groups—urging them to attend a well-advertised open meeting. There some experienced and informed speaker may discuss the need for a library; what a library can do to enrich living in the area, how pooling resources can assure good service, how much it will cost, how it will operate, how every part of the county will be reached by library service.

Each organized group in the area should be asked to endorse the library movement, and as these written expressions of support from groups and influential citizens are gathered, they should be publicized.

Minnesota laws permit two methods for organizing county libraries (See Minnesota Library Division leaflets—*The County or*

Regional Library—What Is It? and *The County Library—How To Get It*.) First, the County Commissioners MAY levy a two-mill tax on all property which is not already being taxed for library purposes. (Two mills is permitted by the 1947 revision of the County Library statute.) Second, the Commissioners upon the petition of 100 freeholders SHALL submit the question of such establishment to the voters at the next county election.

As the workers explain the proposition, they circulate petitions, to which adults add their signatures. Workers should not stop when the required 100 are attained. In Isanti County, diligent chairmen and workers secured 1,778 signatures; in Kandiyohi, signatures of 667 freeholders and 800 non-freeholders.

The Association may decide to appear before the Commissioners at their annual July meeting to request the establishment of a county library. Presentation of the petitions and reports of each district chairman should be given separately. An enthusiastic speaker should request that the maximum two-mill levy be made directly by the Commissioners. Other leaders representing various occupations and organizations, from every part of the county should also be present. This method was successful in Isanti County in 1946.

In other counties, the petitions signed by at least 100 freeholders of real estate have been presented to the Commissioners early in the Fall before the deadline for printing the ballots for the November general election. Both approaches may be used the same year.

Innumerable suggestions could be given—points to stress, moves to avoid. Mrs. Agatha Klein, now president of the Minnesota Library Association, whose experience in Minnesota Library Extension is well-known and whose friendly advice permeates this article, has aided me in selecting the following:

Use the resources of the State Library Division, organized by law to aid in an advisory capacity in such matters as organizing a library campaign. Before beginning

action, ask for planning help in order to avoid mistakes made by other counties during the past ten years and to profit from their experience. Ask for materials such as films, leaflets, radio scripts, publicity materials. Keep the Division informed of progress.

Choose leaders at all levels carefully. The county officers and committees should be people who believe so deeply in the library idea that they will work unceasingly for it. People who thoroughly believe in the plan but who are too busy to work actively can be a moving influence through endorsements. Reaching each individual, answering his questions, is the most important element in the plan.

Ask for the full amount permitted by law, two mills. Later adjustments may have to be made, but make sure that everyone realizes the cost cannot be more than the figure mentioned. However, no unit should be established that will not fit into a larger plan for library service.

Set up careful plans for the campaign. Decide whether a short concentrated three-month plan will accomplish most, or whether a longer term is needed. Both take careful planning. Monthly executive board meetings, quarterly county-wide assemblies are advisable.

There is no better time than the present. Taxes will always seem hard to pay! Hospitals must be built, children must be educated! But good times bring high costs; depressions bring less money.

Do not try to be too specific about the actual library set-up. That is the work of the Commissioners, the Library Board, and the Librarian after the election. However, make clear that every resident of the area will have service, through headquarters, stations or mobile equipment. Details as to advisability of a bookmobile, types of book collections, frequency of changing book stock and whether local stations should be opened, can be decided later. The County Librarian can best appraise the advantages and disadvantages of known methods when applied to a specific locality. In most counties in Minnesota a combination will be needed.

Always explain the basic features of the plan simply. Repeat them, for the plan may seem obvious to you, but a rumor based

on a lack of knowledge may do much harm. Allay the fears that are present in communities that have some library service. A county or regional library does not take away library advantages already established. It brings greater numbers of books, adds modern services, enlists the aid of the trained County Librarian, and frees the present village librarian from the tedious processing of books so that she may spend her time serving her patrons.

Inform county officials and County Commissioners, inviting them to meetings of the Association. County Commissioners are sure to vote for a library when they are convinced that a majority of their constituents want it. Don't wait for the election to get this process started. Remember that people *against* a new plan are much more vocal than those *for* it.

Do not be apologetic when asking people to endorse the library campaign, a movement for their own betterment, not for the good of a few individuals. A library costs little when compared with other municipal and county outlays.

Do not stop until every home in each township and village has been visited. One township may vote overwhelmingly against the issue, wiping out the majority of votes in favor elsewhere. Secure many more than 100 signatures, for each extra person contacted becomes one more assurance that the vote will be in favor of the library. Wide coverage is also a way of finding localities where more work must be done.

Publicity by word of mouth, from a person well-known and respected in the neighborhood, is the most effective. But use every facility available—the radio, newspapers, films, poster and slogan contests. Notices to parents taken home by school children and paid advertising before the election are also effective.

After the election and Commissioners' action starting the machinery of organization, the tired timid citizen (Now she can confess!) can relax and turn over her arduous work to the Library Board and Librarian who are legally given the responsibility for the library. But the Friends of the Library should continue as an active force, for there will be many problems connected with the expansion of the service after it has been established.

School Librarians Take to the Woods

JANE STREBEL

Librarian, Franklin Junior High School, Minneapolis

The school librarians in Minnesota have believed for some time that much could be gained from a week-end of fellowship in an outdoor setting. On September 16, they gathered from all parts of the state at Lyman Lodge, the Minneapolis Y.W.C.A. Camp at Lake Minnetonka, for their first camp conference. Under the able leadership of Ingrid Miller, Librarian at Edina High School, the group quickly relaxed into the informal tempo of camp life—they sang a little, danced a little, played a little, worked and talked a lot.

The meetings began at dinner time on Friday evening, when Blanche Thompson, state president of the Minnesota School Library Association, welcomed members who had arrived from such far points as Proctor, Grand Rapids and Fairmont. During the evening other school librarians from Albert Lea, Mankato and Winona joined the group as they sat around the fireplace and, guided by Naomi Hokanson of Stillwater, exchanged spirited comments and opinions on outstanding books and articles that had been a part of their summer reading. It was fun to learn of the dissenting opinions about some of the new books, too.

Saturday's program centered around two areas that are uppermost in the minds of many school librarians today: the audio-visual program, and work with administrators and teachers. Ingrid Miller opened the morning session with a general discussion of the place of the librarian in the audio-visual program. A presentation of the audio-visual services in the Proctor schools by Mrs. Myrtle Hoverson proved to be not only an excellent picture of a program in action but an outstanding illustration of public relations between a librarian and her educational co-workers. A practical demonstration of the evaluation of a film strip, under the direction of Carol Eastwold of Albert Lea, and a general discussion of current problems that the members of the group were experiencing in their own library situations concluded the morning session.

Not the least welcome of the afternoon

meeting was a two hour respite after lunch during which the campers strolled the wooded paths and chatted in the warm autumn sunshine. At mid-afternoon they gathered for the session on working with administrators and teachers. The film, *By Jupiter*, served as a spring board to launch Colette Hamm of Grand Rapids into a discussion of ways for the librarian to serve the school by working through the teachers. Jane Strebel of Minneapolis summarized the dynamic address which Kenneth Oberholzer, Superintendent of the Denver Public Schools, had delivered at Mid-Winter A.L.A. under the title of "Selling the School Library to School Administrators." The afternoon program came to a close with a panel on cooperative relations between administrators and teachers, presented by Marian Gratz, St. Paul; Irene Garrigan, Winona; Marvel Wooldrik, Worthington; Ruth Marfell, Minneapolis; and Jeanette Wittick, Red Wing.

For a few minutes before dinner, Ruth Ersted discussed the possibilities of centralized services in buying, cataloging, and processing books for school libraries of Minnesota.

Saturday evening's program was one of almost complete abandon of all vestiges of the profession. Square dancing, canasta and bridge took the fore, and an atmosphere of relaxation and fellowship reigned.

On Sunday morning, after a brief song and worship service, which was planned by Francis Vail of Richfield, the group divided into sections to evaluate the conference. In summarizing the evaluations, Miss C. Irene Hayner, of the Division of Library Instruction, University of Minnesota, concluded that the seventy school librarians who had participated were about to leave the woods with high enthusiasm over the values received from their outing, a greater confidence in themselves as a professional group, and a unanimous recommendation that a camp conference become a regular biennial event in the program of the Minnesota Association of School Librarians.

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Library extension, problems and solutions; papers . . . ed by Carleton Joeckel. Univ of Chicago 1946

Minnesota Libraries D'43, Je '44, S'44

Patterns of local organization. In A.L.A. Committee on postwar planning. National plan for public library service. A.L.A. 1946

Reaching readers; techniques of extending library services; papers . . . ed by Carleton Joeckel. Univ of California 1949

You—and the district library. Marion James. Ill Lib 30:7-9 Ja '48

County Libraries

Alternative plans of organization of county libraries in Wisconsin. Wis Lib Bul 44: 138-41 S '48

Books for the asking. Reprints from The Farmer N 6 '43, Jl 16 '49

County library primer. Mildred Sandoe. H. W. Wilson Co. 1942

Louisiana demonstrates library service. Sallie Farrell. Wilson Lib Bul 23: 611-14 Apr '49

Place of the municipal libraries in a county-wide system. John Chancellor. Wis Lib Bul 44: 189-95 D '48

Regional Libraries

Design for a regional library service unit. Carleton Joeckel. Wis Lib Bul 44: 69-74 Ap '48

How regional library service operates. Ill Lib Je '44

Outline of proposed county and regional library demonstrations for Wisconsin. Wis Lib Bul 45: 1-5 Ja '49

Bookmobiles

A L A Bulletin Nov '48, part 2

Bookmobile. Dorothy Strouse. In Joeckel, Carleton. Reaching readers. Univ of California 1949

Bookmobiles turned the tide. Charles Clayton. Lib J 74: 255-7 F 15 '49

Considering a bookmobile? Lib J 71: 1761-72 D 15 '46

All these titles and others on the subject may be borrowed from the Library Division.

Library Meetings

Pre-Conference for Trustees and Librarians

The Pre-Conference was held at the Continuation Center of the University of Minnesota, on Friday, September 30, under the sponsorship of the Minnesota Library Association; the Division of Library Instruction, University of Minnesota; and the State Library Division.

Alice Lewis and Emily Mayne were co-ordinators for the joint meetings, with Miss Lewis in charge of trustees programs, and Mrs. Margaret Leonard those of the librarians. Theme of the meeting was *Forward Through Service*. The results were pleasing. 165 people were registered—29 trustees, 40 library school students, 90 librarians, and 6 guests.

A panel on the Public Library Inquiry opened the all-day program. Taking part in it were Marie Knudson, Glenn M. Lewis, Emily L. Mayne, and Lucille Gottry, Co-Ordinator. This was followed by a report and lively discussion by Dr. Douglas Marshall, Department of Sociology, University of Minnesota, his topic "Recent Rural Trends and Their Implications." For the trustees, Mrs. Maurice Nusbaum, a public library trustee from Rockford, Illinois, told of the work which can be done by a good trustee group in her talk on "The Live Trustee and the Library."

After a joint luncheon at Coffman Memorial Union, Sarah Wallace entertained the association with an amusing study on "Are Librarians People?" In the afternoon, a Visual Aids Demonstration was held, supplemented by a talk on the formation of film councils by Dr. Glen Burch, President of the Film Council of America, Inc.

The trustees then conducted their annual business meeting of their Section of the Association. Mrs. Ahola, acting chairman, urged trustees to work and participate more actively with the librarians in Association affairs.

Permanent officers elected are *President*, Mrs. W. E. Ballenthin, Cambridge; *First Vice-President*, Mrs. Harrington, Calumet; *Second Vice-President*, Mrs. Gilbert, Rochester; *Corresponding Secretary*, Mrs. Flodquist, North Branch; *Treasurer*, Mrs. Dorothy Atkinson Rood, Minneapolis. The election completed the trustees section meetings; Mrs. Ballenthin urged the members to unite in forming a strong, active section. It then met with the librarians to hear Muriel Fuller, La Crosse Public Library, tell about "The Extension of Library Service."

M. L. A. Fifty-fifth Annual Conference

Sessions were held in St. Paul at the Hotel Lowry on Saturday, October 1.

President Glenn M. Lewis called the morning business session to order at 10:15 A.M. Report of the Treasurer was read and accepted. Committee reports were then presented. These included District Meetings (see Minn. Lib. v.16, p.65) Activities, Federal Relations, Legislative, Public Relations, and Constitution. A summary of these reports will be published in the March, 1950, issue of *Minnesota Libraries* as will a resumé of the section meetings.

Alberta Heagle, Membership Committee chairman, reported that the Association had Personal, Institutional and Honorary memberships totaling 569.

The slate of officers reported by Mrs. Rella Havens, Nominating Committee chairman, was duly elected. The new officers are *President*, Mrs. Agatha L. Klein; *First Vice President (President Elect)*, Mary C. Baker; *Second Vice President*, Borghild Lee. These officers plus the following constitute the new Executive Board: Glenn M. Lewis, Ruth M. Jedermann, *Secretary-Treasurer*; and Alice Brunat, *A.L.A. Councillor*.

At the evening banquet, Martin Hall in his speech, "Behind the Iron Curtain," presented a stirring picture of conditions in Poland and Czecho-Slovakia.